

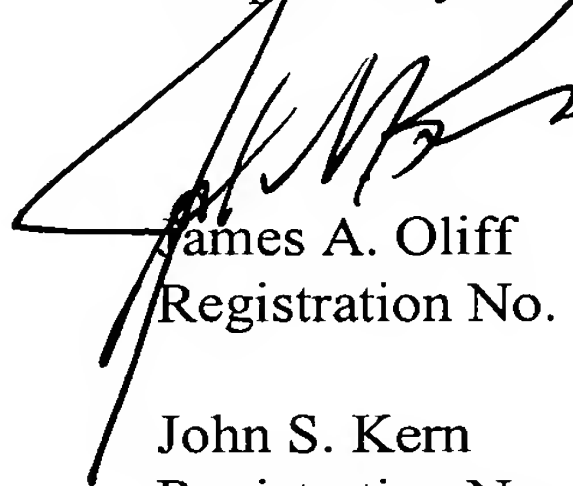
**REMARKS**

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application. By this Preliminary Amendment, the Abstract, specification and claims 1-9 and 11-21 are amended. No new matter is added.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

John S. Kern  
Registration No. 42,719

JAO:JSK/kap

Attachment:

Substitute specification  
Substitute Abstract  
Marked-up copy of application

Date: December 2, 2003

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

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